

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

April 7, 2014

www.op97.org

Important Dates

April 25 or 26

IAAT (algebra placement test)

April 25

Rockin Lock In

May 14

Robert Crown Field Trip

May 16

Transition Picnic

June 6 (tentative)

Pool Outing

June 9 (This is a CHANGE)

Completion Ceremony

June 10

Last Day of School (Calendar Change)

Student Council Food Drive

Student Council is sponsoring a food drive to benefit the Oak Park Food Pantry. In addition to non-perishable food items, the Food Pantry also accepts monetary donations. For every dollar that is donated, the Oak Park Food Pantry can purchase approximately \$12 worth of food. Please be generous with your donations.

Report Card Envelopes

Please return signed report card envelopes to your child's homeroom teacher as soon as possible. The envelopes will be used for next trimester's report card.

Typing Practice

Students can log on to Custom Typing from home to practice keyboarding skills. The Custom Typing program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is: <http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

Art - [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) The results for the Design an Ad contest were published over spring break. There were ten schools in the contest. The paper awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd place as well as three honorable mentions. Holmes received three of the six possible awards! Congratulations to Evelyn Hunt (third place), Olivia Cordes and Sophie Bessell (both Honorable Mentions) for designing winning advertisements!

Music - This year we will be orchestrating some of our compositions for the 5th grade Shakespeare plays. Students will use playing skills and Garage Band on their iPads to record their works. This week we will be figuring out the chords we need to accompany our pieces. Lastly, Abigail Fernandez, from Vandercook College of Music (where I received my masters), will be student teaching at Holmes till late May.

Chorus - Thank you to all chorus members and their families for a wonderful choral festival. The students did an amazing job both on and off stage...but we're not done yet! Soon to come--information on a May concert with the gold belt recorder ensemble and our half time performance with the Chicago Sky. Please save the date Friday 6/6!

Spanish - Each class is again creating their own unique story. We will be finishing up these this week and then creating mini-libros. Students will be able to read the stories to la familia y amigos for extra puntos. <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/> .

Library - We will be starting a new research project in library that will combine research skills, writing skills, and knowledge in social studies and science. We will be using CultureGrams, a great database provided to us by the Oak Park Public Library. More to come on the outline for this project next week! *READING OLYMPIANS*: There is one more competition, for those interested: Reading Olympics EXTREME! This competition includes all 18 books read in the fall and spring. Teams that are interested will meet this Wednesday, April 2 during recess for a brief run-down of the competition. For more information, the library home page is <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/> . As always, feel free to email me with questions mmaneck@op97.org .

Physical Education - (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)

Resource

Ms. Rose has created a new blog for the families of her Resource students. For more information on her activities, please visit: [Ms. Rose- Resource Support](#)

Reading/Literature

We are continuing to explore how to make accurate inferences and the theme of a story. To make an inference we combine our background knowledge or schema with clues in the text to figure out the full meaning of what we are reading. The better we get at this skill, the higher our reading comprehension is! Also, we will reflect upon THE MESSAGE or theme in each story we read. This is the life lesson that the author is trying to share with us.

We will assess our skills many times this week in an effort to get a more accurate picture of how each student is understanding these skills and their level of proficiency. The grades of all quizzes and assessments will be combined for the final report card.

Writing

As we learn more about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, we will be exploring the questions of which rights we think are most important.

Math

This week, we will continue our study of geometry. Last week, students learned about triangle properties and this week, we will focus on quadrilaterals. Students will be able to classify quadrilaterals based on their side and angle properties. We will also discuss how different types of quadrilaterals are related, based on their attributes. There will be an assessment on Friday covering quadrilateral properties.

Science

Last week, we began our human body unit, by discussing the skeletal system. This week, we will learn about the muscular system. In addition to studying the human body, we will dedicate a day each week to study of ecosystems. The human body unit includes a visit the Robert Crown Center for our study of puberty and the dissection of sheep hearts and eyeballs. For ecosystems, we will focus on composting, working in the Holmes garden, and writing a grant for an outdoor classroom. Please let us know if you are interested in assisting with dissection.

Social Studies

In Social Studies this week we will be focusing on the Constitution. We will begin by learning about the Constitutional Convention. This will be followed by learning about the Preamble and attempting to memorize it through song! Finally, we will talk about the Three Branches of Government and their system of Checks and Balances.

Spelling/Word Study

Students will be assigned spelling words this week. The words will be pulled from our 5th Grade Spelling Bee list. Words are also posted on the Wiki!

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

Mr. Finkbeiner
afinkbeiner@op97.org

Ms. Kraft
fkraft@op97.org

Ms. Manuel
mmanuel@op97.org

Ms. Zucker
azucker@op97.org